The Council assembled at the Council Chamber, Fort St. George, at 11 a.m. on Monday the 18th December 1922, the hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir P. Rajagopala Achariyar Avargal, K.C.S.I., C.I.E., President, presiding.

I

NEW MEMBERS.

The following members were sworn in :—

Mr. Edward Francis Thomas, C.I.E., I.C.S.

M.R.Ry. Rai Bahadur Narasimha Ayyangar Gopalaswami Ayyangar Avargal.

II

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

[*Order made by the President of the Madras Legislative Council under Standing Order No.* 15—

(1) Printed copies of the questions and answers to be put and given at a meeting of the Council shall be placed on the Council table an hour before the President takes his seat.

(2) The questions shall be put and answered in the following manner :—

The Secretary shall call the name of each interpellator in alphabetical order, specify the serial numbers of his questions and make a sufficient pause to allow him or any other member a reasonable opportunity of rising in his place if he is desirous of asking a supplementary question. Supplementary questions must be put immediately after the principal questions to which they relate.]

Reduction of taluks in the Tinnevelly district.

517 Q.—Mr. A. M. Ahmad Miran Sahib : Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether there is any proposal to reduce the number of taluks in the Tinnevelly district ; if so, what are the proposals and in what stage the matter now stands ; and

(*b*) whether it is a fact that Ambasamudram and Tenkasi taluks have been proposed to be clubbed together making Ambasamudram as head-quarters ; whether the public of the Tinnevelly district were consulted in the matter ?

A.—Proposals have been received and are under the consideration of the Government. The public of the Tinnevelly district have not been consulted.

Sriman Sasibhushan Rath Mahasayo :—" Will the public of the Tinnevelly district ever be consulted in the matter ? "

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir Muhammad Habib-ul-lah Sahib Bahadur :—" The question will be considered."

Mappilla prisoners in the Cannanore Central Jail.

518 Q.—Mr. A. D. M. Bavotti Sahib : Will the hon. the Home Member be pleased to state—

(*a*) the number of Mappillas and other Muhammadan prisoners in the Central Jail, Cannanore ; and

(*b*) what were the arrangements made for them to perform their prayers and to observe fasting during the month of Ramzan in the matter of meals and clothing ?